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Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 50/118 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly commended Member States and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that had maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and called upon those that had not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of SADC, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community, and to report to it at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 10 April 1997 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting information on specific measures undertaken in implementation of the resolution. He also dispatched letters dated 7 April 1997 to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to submit their contributions for the preparation of his report.

3. The present report is based on the information received from Member States and United Nations organizations and bodies as at 30 September 1997. Any further replies received will be incorporated in an addendum to the report.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

A. Action taken by Member States

1. Austria

4. Southern Africa is one of the target regions of Austria's development cooperation programme, and Austria has intensified its bilateral relations with seven SADC countries, both in political terms and in terms of economic and development cooperation. Austria is cooperating with Mozambique in the implementation of projects in the areas of democratization, agriculture and water management and in the development of small and medium-size enterprises. It is assisting Namibia in the areas of democratization and the development of small and medium enterprises as well as

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Zimbabwe in the latter area. It is financing a special programme on local government in South Africa and collaborates with the SADC region as a whole in the development of railways and small and medium enterprises.

5. At the level of the European Union (EU), Austria actively supports cooperation with SADC within the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, which enhanced its development programme with SADC to include political dialogue, regional integration, trade and investment following the first SADC/EU Ministerial Conference (Berlin, 5 and 6 September 1994), and marked a turning point in relations between the two regions. The second SADC/EU Ministerial Conference (Windhoek, 14 and 15 October 1996) endorsed a joint institutional framework that is being implemented through concrete activities. Austria will host the third SADC/EU Ministerial Conference, which is scheduled to take place in Vienna on 10 and 11 November 1998.

2. Ecuador

6. Ecuador fully supports the activities being planned and undertaken for the development of southern Africa and is interested in establishing diplomatic and commercial ties of mutual benefit with the region.

3. Germany

7. Total assistance provided by Germany to SADC amounted to approximately US$ 400.4 million in 1995 and $295.4 million in 1996. Of this amount, approximately $631 million was extended in bilateral assistance to SADC member countries for projects in agriculture, education, infrastructure development and water and sanitation. In addition, Germany has supported the decentralization programme in South Africa, and the consolidation of democratization in Mozambique, and has increased its cooperation with Namibia.

8. Germany provided approximately $20.4 million in 1995-1996 for regional integration programmes for SADC at the regional level in the areas of human resources development and capacity-building, agriculture and natural resources development and trade promotion. It also extended some $44.9 million in 1995-1996 for drought alleviation, food aid and famine prevention.

9. In addition to its bilateral assistance, Germany contributed approximately 3 billion deutsche marks to the assistance provided to SADC by EU, which amounted to some DM 11 billion from 1976 to 1995.

4. Norway

10. In addition to contributing to development cooperation initiatives for SADC at the Nordic regional level, Norway provides bilateral assistance both to SADC as a regional organization and to its member countries. In 1996, Norway allocated approximately $12 million and has pledged some $11 million for 1997 for projects in economic development, natural resources management, strengthening of democratic institutions, social service and human resources development, and social services. Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are given priority in Norway's development cooperation with the SADC region.

11. As a result of the ending of apartheid in South Africa and its becoming a member of SADC, conflict prevention has become an important area of cooperation. Norway is funding a conflict prevention and conflict resolution project entitled "Training for Peace", which is coordinated by the Norwegian Research Institute. The project, to be implemented from 1995 to 1999, is aimed at capacity-building in the field of conflict management. Planning and implementation for the project is being carried out in cooperation with the Government of South Africa, the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the International Peace Academy. The project's budget of approximately $1.5 million has been increased by 25 per cent by the Norwegian Government.

5. Spain

12. Spain signed a treaty of cooperation with SADC in 1995 and has entered into cooperation agreements with Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa in the areas of education and training, health, infrastructure development, energy, institution-building, emergency and food aid and research. Cooperation in those priority areas is being implemented through technical cooperation offices in Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, which are run by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

13. Spain's principal regional cooperation projects include the rehabilitation of railway corridors in Angola and Mozambique; research into an effective malaria vaccine, vocational training in the fisheries industry and rehabilitation and national reconstruction programmes in Angola; and a demobilization and police reform programme in Mozambique, which are funded jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Spain's contributions to the region for the years 1995 and 1996 amounted to approximately 5,964,000 pesetas.

6. Sweden

14. Sweden has given priority to the southern African region in its development cooperation programme for many years. Over one third of its total bilateral aid has been directed to the region, amounting to 1.8 billion Swedish kronor for 1995-1996. Sweden's assistance for regional cooperation in Africa amounted to Skr 120 million in 1996 and Skr 125 million in 1997.

15. Programmes and projects in the field of environmental preservation and regional cooperation in the use of scarce water resources as a conflict prevention measure have been given increased priority in the SADC region. Culture and media are a relatively new sector of cooperation.

16. In addition to the above-mentioned areas of cooperation, Sweden actively participates in the ongoing political dialogue with SADC at the Nordic regional level and as a member of EU.

7. Thailand

17. Thailand contributed $10,000 for food assistance in 1995 to help alleviate the effects of the 1994 drought and $10,000 in 1996 for disaster relief to Lesotho.

18. In 1996, under the auspices of the annual international training courses organized by the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation of Thailand, three participants from Botswana attended a course on agriculture and social development; seven participants from Zambia attended the agriculture, public health, science, technology, environment and social development course; and two participants from Zimbabwe attended the public health course at a total cost of 3.126 million baht (approximately 25.50 baht = US$ 1).

B. Action taken by the United Nations system

1. Department for Development Support and Management Services[1]

19. The Department is working with SADC countries to set up mechanisms of cooperation by providing technical support and advisory services in the area of shared water resources in the region. Such support has been provided to Angola, Botswana and Namibia with regard to development of the Okavango basin and to Swaziland to assess the resources and needs of the Usutu/Maputo river basin, which straddles Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland. The Department has also assisted the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe in the preparation of sector strategies and basin-planning initiatives.

20. In addition, the Department has assisted individual countries of the region in the economic and social development areas.

2. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis[1]

21. The Department has cooperated in implementing projects related to population and housing censuses in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe and in strengthening economic statistics and national accounting in Mozambique and Namibia.

3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

22. The memorandum of understanding of July 1996 entered into by SADC and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) addressed the common features of refugee movements in the SADC region. The memorandum calls for a shared approach by the SADC member States and UNHCR, at the regional level, to the problem of irregular movement of refugees and the harmonization of protection and assistance for asylum seekers. A series of consultations have been initiated with the Governments of the region on irregular migration and refugee-related issues.

4. International Fund for Agricultural Development

23. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has assisted in the development of infrastructure linking small farmers to national and international markets and in small-scale resource management in marginal areas in the SADC countries. In February 1996, the IFAD and SADC secretariats organized a workshop on approaches to rural poverty alleviation in SADC countries, which focused on smallholder development in the region. Since 1978, IFAD has assisted in 36 projects and programmes in the SADC countries costing $869 million, to which IFAD contributed $386 million.

[1] Pursuant to the programme for reform of the Secretary-General, the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, as well as the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, have been merged into a new Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. United Nations Environment Programme

24. A joint United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/SADC initiative on strengthening national and subregional capacities for environmental data and information management is currently under way. UNEP has assisted in building the capacity of SADC member countries in the development and management of groundwater resources, the strengthening of environmental law and the integration of related legislation in economic and social development programmes.

6. International Monetary Fund

25. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has continued to support the regional economic integration efforts of the SADC countries in the context of annual consultations on article IV of the IMF Articles of Agreement, the provision of concessional assistance from the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility for structural adjustment programmes and technical assistance aimed at capacity-building in critical areas of macroeconomic policy. Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are presently implementing structural adjustment programmes with the support of the Fund's concessional Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility resources.

26. In its policy dialogue with SADC countries, IMF has promoted the process of regional market integration by assisting with the design of liberalization programmes for their foreign trade and exchange systems and their domestic financial sectors. In addition, through the cross-border initiative sponsored by IMF, the African Development Bank and the EU Commission, the Fund has fostered regional as well as multilateral trade liberalization in the SADC countries and has helped in harmonizing the scope and pace of economic reform in the countries of the region. Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are already participating in the cross-border initiative, and other SADC countries are welcome to join in the initiative.

27. With regard to institutional cooperation between SADC and IMF, high-level contacts with the SADC secretariat are held at regular intervals, and the Fund participates in consultative conferences and technical meetings of the SADC secretariat. Both institutions are reviewing areas in which specific IMF assistance could be beneficial.

7. World Bank

28. In addition to direct lending, including adjustment lending and coordination of aid flows to SADC member States, the World Bank continued to provide technical assistance in the development of power and energy resources and in the development of the Maputo Corridor project, a vital regional transportation link. Close interaction with SADC was maintained in the finalization of its trade protocol, ratified in 1996. SADC has been actively involved in the evolution of the cross-border initiative to promote regional integration through creating a policy and institutional framework for efficient production and trade.

29. As in previous years, the World Bank continues to participate in the annual conferences of SADC. In April 1997, consultations were held with SADC officials in Washington, D.C., on broadening the Bank's programme of assistance. The focus of the proposed strategy is the development of vital infrastructure, such as the Maputo Corridor (between Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland) and the Northern Corridor (between Malawi and Mozambique) in the transportation sector, power and energy development and the development of river basins. The World Bank will assist in the technical aspects of those projects. It will also provide direct investment lending to the concerned SADC member countries and facilitate foreign direct investment through guarantees. It is also assisting in the initiative for the integration of regional payment systems, in order to promote trade flows. The Bank has agreed to assist in the implementation of the SADC trade protocol. Two major studies, on trade and tax reform and on maize prices, are to be undertaken in the near future to continue the Bank's assistance in facilitating efficient trade flows among the SADC countries.

8. United Nations Children's Fund

30. Following the 1994 SADC symposium on the implementation of the national programmes of action for children in the member States, which was supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the two organizations have continued to hold periodic consultations on issues concerning children in the subregion. UNICEF also participates in the annual SADC Consultative Conference.

31. UNICEF cooperation in the subregion is largely country-based, driven by country cooperation programmes, given that SADC regional institutions and mechanisms are concentrated primarily outside the social development sectors. UNICEF has continued to support and cooperate in national programmes to benefit children and women. These include prevention of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,

the Sara regional communication initiative in support of girls' education, post-war rehabilitation, capacity-building for social development, monitoring and advocacy for children, drought mitigation and disaster preparedness. In 1996, UNICEF supported the production and publication of a wide-ranging analysis by southern African researchers of the needs and opportunities for children in the post-apartheid period, entitled "Transcending the Legacy".

9. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

32. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is assisting SADC in the preparation of an industrial development strategy focusing on the harmonization of industrial policies, competitiveness, trade liberalization and regional cooperation.

33. UNIDO is assisting the United Republic of Tanzania in assessing the environmental impact of gold mining, in introducing cleaner technologies for improved gold recovery and in a programme to enhance women's involvement in the food-processing sector. In addition, it is assisting Malawi and Zambia to improve the processing of hides and skins and to improve the footwear and leather goods industries, and Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in establishing quality control systems.

10. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

34. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the SADC secretariats have cooperated in the organization of a regional training workshop on new technologies of information and communication to combat desertification. They are also preparing a joint desertification information system training and capacity-building programme at both the regional and national levels, and organized the third AFRICAGIS conference to promote the development and use of geographic information systems for African scientists (Gaborone, 23-27 June 1997).

11. World Meteorological Organization

35. The World Meteorological Organization collaborated closely with the SADC Southern African Transport and Communications Commission to develop programmes aimed at strengthening national meteorological and hydrological services. It also continued to implement the UNDP Drought Monitoring Centre programme, based in Harare, for which the Government of Belgium has contributed $2.5 million; and it has cooperated with the SADC water sector in the implementation of the SADC hydrological cycle observing system project, which is funded by EU at a total cost of $2.5 million.

12. World Food Programme

36. Through its regional field office in Maputo and field units in Angola, Malawi and Zambia, the World Food Programme (WFP) works closely with SADC countries to improve early warning systems and to develop response mechanisms targeting food assistance to vulnerable groups to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. WFP also plays an advisory role in the region by providing information and analysis on regional market indicators related to food security.

37. WFP is currently providing emergency assistance in Angola, Malawi and Mozambique, implementing ongoing relief operations and providing development assistance to Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. During 1996, WFP purchased food commodities for approximately $39 million in the southern African region through cash donations from donors such as EU, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for distribution in emergency situations in Africa and other regions.

13. World Intellectual Property Organization

38. During the period under review, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued its cooperation with SADC countries by providing advisory services and organizing training seminars for the development of copyright and patent regulation and legislation. In this regard, WIPO granted training fellowships to some 100 government officials from each of the 12 SADC countries, including 2 from the SADC secretariat.

39. WIPO organized a seminar on industrial property in Luanda in March 1996 and another in Maputo in November 1996, and provided advisory services and training to the Government of Botswana on the drafting of industrial property legislation and on accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty. WIPO conducted a training course for the Copyright Society of Malawi on the practical aspects of the collective administration of copyright in November 1995 and another on the same topic for officials from Lesotho, Namibia and Zambia in Lilongwe in June 1996. It also provided advisory services to the Government of Malawi on the compatibility of the country's industrial property legislation with relevant international agreements. WIPO provided advice to the Government of Mauritius on the drawing up of its industrial property, copyright and trademark administration legislation.

14. Economic Commission for Africa

40. Through its subregional development centre in Lusaka, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) provided advisory services and cooperated in a survey to assess skill deficiencies in the subregion with the SADC Mining Sector Coordinating Unit and its Human Resources Development Subcommittee. The findings and recommendations of the survey are to be included in the SADC mining protocol, which is currently under consideration. ECA also undertook a study on the integration of South Africa into southern Africa's mining sector. Similarly, ECA cooperated in the formulation of the SADC regional energy policy and strategy, which was approved by the SADC energy ministers in 1996, and in reviewing the South African white paper on energy policy.

41. In the labour sector, ECA undertook two studies, one on emerging issues in the labour market, employment and training in the SADC region in the 1990s, and the second on labour market integration in southern Africa. ECA is also cooperating with the development of the SADC mechanisms for food security and drought mitigation.

15. Department of Public Information

42. During the period under review, United Nations information centres in the region launched information programmes on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and the UNDP *Human Development Report* by organizing press conferences, briefings and symposia for the media and non-governmental organizations and by disseminating information through the print media, radio and television. A regional forum on poverty eradication in southern Africa was held in Windhoek in May 1997. The Department continued to publish several information and press kits on issues relevant to Africa and gave wide dissemination to United Nations programmes related to Africa, including the publication *Africa Recovery*.

16. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

43. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to strengthen its cooperation with the SADC Food Security Technical and Administrative Unit, based in Harare, and assisted the SADC Centre of Communication for Development. The joint SADC/FAO high-level consultation on food security information systems (Harare, 9-12 July 1996) addressed information needs on food security at both the national and regional levels, including expansion of the regional food security database and intensified analysis of food security information. In January 1997, FAO organized a workshop in Harare on the Uruguay Round Agreement and implications for agriculture and food security for the SADC region. FAO presented a paper on food security information systems: concepts and issues at the SADC Conference on Developing Food Security Strategies (Harare, March 1997), and is participating in a series of SADC in-house training seminars in Harare under the auspices of the SADC Food Security Training Project financed by EU.

44. The SADC project on the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases and the Regional Training Centre for Middle-Level Personnel for the Control of Tsetse and African Animal Trypanosomiasis, implemented by FAO, were recently concluded. FAO assisted in the establishment of the remote-sensing component of the SADC Early Warning System, a regional project for a network for on-farm seed production and seed security and projects on household food security information systems in four SADC countries.

17. International Civil Aviation Organization

45. The technical cooperation programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continues to assist the SADC countries in the development of their civil aviation facilities. The ICAO technical programme budget was $2 million in 1996 and $2.8 million in 1997, with approximately 80 per cent of the funds being provided by the Governments themselves. In addition to that programme, ICAO developed 18 country and 5 regional projects, which have been submitted to donors for funding.

18. Universal Postal Union

46. Within the framework of its technical assistance programme to the countries of the SADC subregion, the Universal Postal Union organized a training activity for postal operators in human resource planning and training (Blantyre, Malawi, 23-27 June 1997).